

From: brad
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 10:35pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

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January 21, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I want to take a moment to express my support for the settlement reached between Microsoft and the Department of Justice in November. I believe the settlement is reasonable and fair to all sides involved in this case.

The agreement requires significant changes in Microsoft's practices. For example, Microsoft will have to design future versions of Windows that provides a mechanism to make it easy for computer makers, consumers and software developers to promote non-Microsoft software within Windows. This will give consumers who do not like Microsoft products the freedom to change their configuration at any time. And to assure compliance with the agreement, Microsoft has agreed to be monitored by a Technical Committee formed by the Justice Department.

As a frequent user of Microsoft products, I know firsthand of the innovation Microsoft has brought to consumers over the years. This settlement allows Microsoft to shift their focus back to innovation and away from litigation. This alone makes the settlement definitely in the public interest.

Thank you for the opportunity to give my public comment on this matter. Hopefully with your office's continued support of this settlement, a final conclusion can be reached in the near future.

Sincerely,

Brad Smith